

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In response to the requirement in the Interview Summary, mailed on February 6, 2007, of the telephonic interview conducted on February 1, 2007, that the formal written reply to the last Office Action must contain the substance of the interview, a statement of the substance of the interview follows.

In the interview, the Examiner indicated that claim 1, amended to incorporate the features of claim 15, would overcome Head, U.S. Patent No. 6,323,420, but indicated that claim 1 was still subject to rejection based upon Neuroth et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,585,046, citing an embodiment of Neuroth et al. not cited in the Office Action, namely, the embodiment disclosed in Fig. 14, and the accompanying text on column 9, lines 7-54, of Neuroth et al. With regard to claim 9, the Examiner indicated that it would be allowable if amended in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion of allowable subject in the Office Action. With regard to a new claim 17, which Applicants' representative proposed, the Examiner indicated that it appeared to overcome the rejections based upon Head and Neuroth et al.

Claims 15 and 16 were objected to because the phrase "the cable" was repeated within line 1 of each claim. Reconsideration of the objection is requested.

Claim 15 has been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer, and claim 16 has been amended to overcome the objection.

Claims 1-4, 6, 7, 10-14, and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Head. Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-5, 10-12, and 14-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Neuroth et al. Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Pursuant to the telephonic interview of February 1, 2007, independent claim 1 has been amended to reproduce proposed new claim 17, as presented in that interview, and, thus, should now overcome Head and Neuroth et al., pursuant to the aforementioned indication of the Examiner in the interview.

Since independent claim 1, as amended, now incorporates the features of claims 4 and 15, claims 4 and 15 have been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer. Amended independent

claim 1 also includes the feature that thermally insulating material fills the annular space, supported in the specification, for example, on page 5, lines 28-32.

Since each of claims 2-4, 6, 7, 10-14, and 16 is directly or indirectly dependent upon independent claim 1, each of claims 2-4, 6, 7, 10-14, and 16 also overcomes the rejection based on Head. Since each of claims 2-5, 10-12, 14, and 16 is directly or indirectly dependent upon independent claim 1, each of claims 4-5, 10-12, 14, and 16 is allowable over Neuroth et al. for the same reasons recited above with respect to the allowability of independent claim 1 over Neuroth et al.

Claim 5 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Head over Lenze, U.S. Patent No. 5,394,823. Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 8 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Head in view of Quigley et al, US 2001/0025664 A1. Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

With respect to Head, claims 5 and 8 are allowable over Head for the same reasons recited above with respect to the allowability of independent claim 1 over Head since each of claims 5 and 8 is directly dependent upon independent claim 1.

Neither Lenze nor Quigley et al. discloses, teaches, or suggests an electrical heating cable extending through a rigid pipe for transporting hydrocarbons, as claimed in independent claim 1, and, thus, in dependent claims 5 and 8.

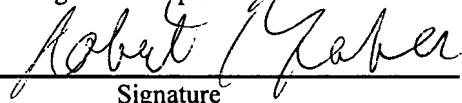
Claim 9 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but was stated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 9 has been so rewritten, and should be allowable for that reason, and pursuant to the Examiner's indication in the telephonic interview on February 1, 2007 referred to previously.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, allowance of claims 1-14 and 16-17 is respectfully requested.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on February 23, 2007:

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Name of applicant, assignee or
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Signature

February 23, 2007

Date of Signature

RCF/MIM:lac

Respectfully submitted,



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